

10/661,689  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of 12-03-04

Via Facsimile

**Remarks**

This amendment is in response to the December 3rd, 2004 Office Action. Filed herewith and incorporated to this amendment is a second 132 affidavit from the first named inventor James D. Smith. Smith is also the first named inventor in both of the cited prior art references. Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections of claims 1-21 in light of the above amendments and the following remarks:

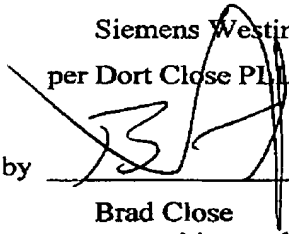
**Rejection of claims 1-21 under § 103(a)**

Applicant maintains that in order to get a high dielectric strength patch of the prior art, one would not combine reactive diluents with filled resins, as discussed in the two submitted affidavits. Applicant has now amended the claims to reflect the dielectric strength of the patch in terms of voltage endurance.

Support for the amendments and additional claims can be found, for example, in paragraph 31.

In addition, Applicant wishes to reiterate the argument that claim 12 is directed towards thickening, rather than repairing damage such as a tear. The '790 patent does not teach thickening, and the amendment to pending claim 12 more precisely calls out this distinction that was previously mentioned in the claim preamble. This claim did not appear to be specifically addressed in the December Office Action.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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